

REFERENCE TITLE: urge enactment; department of peace

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
First Regular Session
2007

HCM 2001

Introduced by
Representatives Lujan, Anderson, Sinema: Gallardo

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH A UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, during the 109th Congress, legislation to establish a United
4 States Department of Peace and Nonviolence was reintroduced in the United
5 States House of Representatives, where it had the sponsorship of 75 members;
6 and

7 Whereas, during the 109th Congress, legislation to establish a United
8 States Department of Peace and Nonviolence was introduced in the United
9 States Senate, where it had the sponsorship of 2 members; and

10 Whereas, legislation to establish a United States Department of Peace
11 and Nonviolence will be reintroduced in the 110th Congress in 2007; and

12 Whereas, the proposed legislation will establish a cabinet-level
13 Department of Peace and Nonviolence, whose primary function will be to
14 research, educate and facilitate nonviolent conflict resolution solutions
15 that are both domestic and international in scope; and

16 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the state of
17 Arizona by identifying best practices among existing programs throughout the
18 United States and developing new programs addressing preventative measures
19 and treatment of root causes as well as symptomatic problems that relate to
20 the societal challenges of domestic violence, school violence, violent crime,
21 racial or ethnic violence and recidivism; and

22 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the state of
23 Arizona by developing curricula that teach violence prevention, conflict
24 resolution and mediation to Arizona's schoolchildren; and

25 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will further benefit the
26 state of Arizona by encouraging development and coordination of initiatives
27 from the community, its religious groups and its nongovernmental
28 organizations, which will promote more effective community involvement,
29 thereby creating stronger civil society and civic engagement to reduce
30 community violence in Arizona; and

31 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation may benefit the state of
32 Arizona by increasing the ability of the United States to employ nonviolent
33 conflict resolution and other nonviolence strategies as an element of
34 national power, which will reduce the number of conflicts that escalate to
35 armed military conflict; and

36 Whereas, the proposed department will be a streamlined department
37 through the acquisition of the functions, assets and personnel of the Peace
38 Corps, the United States Institute of Peace, the Office of the Undersecretary
39 for Arms Control and International Security Affairs of the Department of
40 State, the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program of the Bureau of
41 Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the SafeFutures Program of the Office of
42 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice; and

43 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation may benefit the state of
44 Arizona by eventually reducing spending on armed military conflict, thereby
45 redirecting monies to the states and cities.

1 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

3 1. That the United States Congress enact legislation establishing the
4 Department of Peace and Nonviolence to aid our communities in reducing
5 violence.

6 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
7 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
8 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
9 the State of Arizona.